



# Carry the Message June 2010

The Huron Valley Area Intergroup Newsletter

Serving the Recovery Community since 1979

## AA's Twelve Concepts for World Service

*The Twelve Concepts for World Service are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. They reveal the evolution by which it has arrived in its present form, and they detail the experience and reasoning on which our operation stands today.*

## Concept VI Long Form

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## Concept VI Checklist

1) Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we fa-

miliar with how our other trusted servants serve AA?

2) Are we clear about the terms, "chief initiative" and "active responsibility"? Can we see a direct link to our home group?

## Excerpts from a Letter One Man's Opinion

When I read from various sources about the early days of the Fellowship, it was the intergroup and central offices that provided the continuity for our recovered community. Without the Intergroup, sans central offices, I might very well be dead. I think all groups who benefit from the proximity of an AA centralized office should do their level best to support that office with their 7th Tradition money.

Nowhere in AA writings does it prohibit an AA group from supporting an Intergroup or Central Office. Any group can, of its own choice, support a nearby AA service office if it chooses. Some members use words that are sim-

ply non-existent in AA literature to discourage support.

A long time AA in another district told me not so long ago "We'd love to support Huron Valley, but we can't." My point is he suffers under false knowledge that he believes to be A.A. doctrine. I cannot help but feel we sickos in AA often get very territorial if the intergroup office isn't in our town or our district, or our county or . . . then we assume we have righteous justification in skipping our intergroup/central office support when we "divvy up the pot". Or, it may be yet another control issue. Who knows?

I am grateful to live in an area that has an intergroup office, and I feel very fortunate to have that entity at hand. I am grateful I don't have to drive to Ferndale, or drive to Lansing, or visit Toledo to obtain the literature I seek. I rue the day we would lose our bookstore and service center. And, I'll do whatever I can to see to it we don't lose it.

I do what I can to see to it that this



—Staff the Booth Friday, Aug 20, noon to 8, Saturday, August 21, 10—8, Sunday, August 22, 11—6

—pitch tents and set up — Friday Morning 9 a.m. and pack up and return items to office on Sunday

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## HVAI Contributions

**We'd like to thank last months contributing groups...without the support of individuals and groups like these we would not be able to do the important work we do for the recovering community.**

### **Ann Arbor:**

Came to Believe Group  
Young People / Groove  
Working With Others Group

### **Belleville:**

Keeping it Simple Group

### **Manchester:**

Manchester Group

### **Ypsilanti:**

New Directions Group  
Saturday Big Book Group  
Sisters in Serenity Group

District 04

**A Special Thanks for all the Personal and Anonymous Contributions**

particular part of the service structure remains in tact for the welfare of the Fellowship and lil' ol' me. The Huron Valley Area Intergroup office, ("that little hole-in-the-wall") is the face of AA in this area. They don't hold themselves out as such, but that's how AA.'s around here "see it." The Huron Valley Intergroup office (HVAI) co-operates and provides support service to our A. A. Districts. It takes money and sweat equity to maintain a Website, the Helpline Services, Data Bases for 12 Step Calls and Meeting Guides, and access to AA literature to grateful AA.'s. When the drunks call for help, they call HVAI. The meeting directories come from HVAI. And per the AA Guidelines *HVAI somehow always manages to "stay broke" thus avoiding "perilous wealth." And so on, and so on....*

I don't at all subscribe to viewing Central Offices as "commercial entities." I see General Motors & Wal-Mart as commercial entities. I see Intergroup & Central Offices for what they are: the bricks and mortar face of Alcoholics Anonymous. Most Intergroup/Central Offices are staffed by paid special workers, numerous volunteers and others who may do accounting or whatever. Though folks come, and go. . .it will be the face that

endures. I will continue to do whatever I am capable of doing, as often as I can, to promote and support the face of AA to the public and to the Fellowship. I am not at all willing to just "let it go" the way of Lehman Brothers, or Oldsmobile. They ain't just commercial entities to me, no sireeee. It would be welcome indeed if nearby districts and groups would support these offices. I too love this fellowship. I have found that there are many ways (other than my own) to carry the message. You do it your way; I do it my way; and others do it their way. There is no one way, nor is there only "my way." I look at the Central Michigan Intra Area gatherings and feel truly blessed to be a small part of this Fellowship. I observe the communication skills our elder statesmen have. Each has his or her own way. The job gets done. I see Districts flourish for a period, then the lights go out. I see demonstrated leadership abilities, and see who, by circumstance lack most of those skills. . .yet they lead anyway, and we follow.

I am forever grateful to see the various personalities, egos, willfulness, mannerisms, and quirks able to function among each other for the betterment of the assembled and the community we serve. Yesterday's inhabitants of the trash heap of humanity having

## Meeting Updates

**To update your April 2010 Directories, please print and pass on this information. Go to [www.hvai.org](http://www.hvai.org) and click on the AA & Al-Anon Meeting Locator, then type the key word 'change' in the search box. You can print and distribute this abbreviated list as a service.**

## Send Your Voluntary 7th Tradition Contributions To:

Huron Valley Area Intergroup  
31 South Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

District 4  
Washtenaw County Treasurer  
Box 971502  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Central Michigan Intra-Area 32  
C.M.I.A. Area 32 Treasurer  
10351 Timber Ridge Drive  
Milan, MI 48160

AA World Service  
Grand Central Station  
P.O. Box 459  
New York, NY 10164-0423

## Upcoming Events

**1st Sunday of every EVEN month:** Central MI CMIA ...Conference Service Structure Meeting: <http://www.cmia32.org>

**3rd Saturday:** AA Group Service Center: 4pm Huron Valley Area Intergroup Meeting, 101 S. Huron St. Ypsi. [www.hvai.org](http://www.hvai.org)

**3rd Monday:** District 4: (3rd Mon. ea. month) Conference Service Structure Meeting, Calvary Methodist Church, 1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, 48103

**3rd Thursday:** District 8: Conference Service Structure Meeting: Brighton <http://www.aalivcomi.org>

**Last Sunday:** West-Side MCYPAA Bid Committee Planning: Dawn Farm basement, 6633 Stony Creek, Ypsilanti Info: John W. 248-840-1388, James G. 734- 323-9913, Amanda 734-645-3648, Talara E. 734-678-0187 or <http://www.ws-mcypaa.org/>

**Last Monday:** Eastern Area EACYPAA Bid Committee Planning: Denny's backroom, Ann Arbor Road and I-275, Plymouth, MI info: John W. 248-840-1388, Nick G. 586-291-4871, James G. 734-323-9913 or <http://www.ws-mcypaa.org/>

been transformed into useful contributing citizens all doing their "Schtick" to the very best of their abilities. Your way may not, and likely isn't, my way, and visa-versa. I am not at all motivated to tell any other A.A. how he or she should be doing it.

Oh, I do have my views to be sure.. I learn from the Literature chair about back breaking service. I learn from our Delegate's true selfless dedicated service. I learn about other things like persistence, competence, goal setting, and follow through. I learn from our Area Chair humility and services... during her tenure we have seen many, many improvements in how we conduct our business at Area.

I hope I never stop learning in this fellowship. Mr. Anonymous—

**Huron Valley Area Intergroup (HVAI) is a not-for-profit service group organized and supported by AA groups, in accordance with the Twelve Traditions and the AA Service Manual. You can read about Intergroup &/or Central offices in the Forward to Alcoholics Anonymous (the Big Book), Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, The AA Group ..Where it Begins, AA Tradition How it Developed, Self-**

*I am Responsible...When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there,. And for that I am responsible.*

**Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix, The A. A. Service Manual, and The Language of the Heart. Its purpose is to provide communication between all AA Groups and to provide services that are beyond the financial capabilities of any single group.**

**Your Contributions Help Support:**

1. Local AA news & information
2. Printed Meeting Directory
3. A Local HelpLine Service
4. Informative Website
5. Outreach to local institutions
6. Coordinate area-wide Events
7. AA speakers & 12 Steppers
8. A Local Office
9. AA Literature Supply
10. Walk-in Service Center
11. On-line Meeting List

**The intergroup is governed by YOU. Send an elected voting representative (IR) from your AA group.**

**We follow the AA Guidelines & By-laws which can be found on the Web.**

**Every group has a vote!**

**All are welcome!!**

**We meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month.**

**Help us celebrate AA!! 75th Anniversary! ...a friendly reminder about the unlimited access to an encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony that will be made available through G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site ([www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)). Access to the broadcast will begin on-Saturday morning, July 3rd, and end on Monday, July**



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**5th at midnight (Eastern Time). This allows unlimited access within a time frame and no passwords or access codes will be required. Pass on this information to interested groups and members.**

*A.A. Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Offices from the G.S.O., NY, N.Y.*

**1) A.A. Inquiries** — By providing an A.A. listing in the local telephone directory, the central office may receive inquiries from those seeking help. They will refer the caller to a nearby A.A. group, where sponsorship may be arranged, or have a twelfth stepper contact them. Many local A.A. offices now have their own Web site.

**2) Office Facility** — An A.A. central office can maintain a conveniently located office in which paid workers and/or volunteers are available to carry the message of A.A. to the alcoholic.

**3) Meeting List and Other Literature** — At regular intervals, the central office may publish and distribute up-to-date list of meetings and other information about local A.A. services. Many intergroup/central offices sell Conference-approved literature for the convenience of local groups.

**4) Local A.A. Events** — An A.A. central office is a logical body to manage the details of an annual dinner, picnic, or convention, if the participating groups wish it.

**5) Information Exchange** — The service office may function as a clearinghouse of information among all the A.A. groups in the community. In this same connection, a logical function of the office is to provide “program exchange” meetings, where group program chairpersons meet regularly to exchange meetings with other groups.

## **6) Local Committees on Public Information (P.I.) and Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.) committees**

— The central office is an ideal contact with those in the community seeking information about A.A. Thus, A.A.’s relations with the public and professionals in the alcoholism field are often handled through the cooperation of the area committee and central office. In general service areas where P.I. and C.P.C. committees are under the auspices of a General Service Committee, the central office works in close cooperation with these committees. A.A. Guidelines and Workbooks on P.I. and C.P.C. are available from G.S.O.

## **7) A.A. in Correctional and Treatment Facilities**

— The central office can maintain contact with local groups in correctional facilities and treatment facilities, offering literature and pre-release A.A. contacts and arranging for A.A. speakers and visitors to meetings. When there is a correctional or treatment facility committee for this purpose, the service office may assist it through close cooperation with local hospitals and prisons. Central offices handling institutional contacts are also urged to send for G.S.O. material, Guidelines on Correctional Facilities Committees and Guidelines on Treatment Facilities Committees and the Correctional Facilities and Treatment Facilities Workbooks

**8) Local A.A. Events** — An A.A. central office is a logical body to manage the details of an annual dinner, picnic, or convention, if the participating groups wish it

**9) A.A. Bulletin or Newsletter** — The preparation of a publication for periodic distribution to A.A. groups is often a function of the central office.

**10) Special Needs Services** — Many central offices carry information on groups that are wheelchair accessible, or signed for deaf members. Some offices have TDD/TTY equipment for communicating with deaf alcoholics.

## **MAKING A GOOD BEGINNING:**

Like many well-meant ventures in A.A., central offices sometimes suffer because they are conceived and established without advance planning. The unhappy and damag-

ing experiences of such ventures indicate that a few questions should be raised before a central office is opened.

One question should concern actual need. Is there a sufficient number of groups in the community to justify opening a central office? Are they able and willing to support it financially? Have they been consulted as to whether such an office could serve their needs? Will they cooperate with it and support its aims and purposes? (If, after such consideration, an office seems impractical, a telephone answering service may fill the needs. G.S.O. has Guidelines on A.A. Answering Services.)

Questions should also be raised about proposed locations for the central office and the personnel and equipment needed. It’s sometimes tempting to consider moderately priced or free facilities supplied by agencies or organizations working in the field of alcoholism or in other fields. But it’s better to forego this short-term advantage if there’s any likelihood that A.A. would lose its independent status in the bargain or appear—in the public mind at least—to be sponsored or controlled by the other organization. (to be continued...)

## **What Helps You to Be a Good Sponsor?**

If you've read something in the Grapevine that describes how your sponsorship role was helped or if you'd like to share your own experience, please contact: [gveditorial@aagrapevine.org](mailto:gveditorial@aagrapevine.org)

Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our Path...